REMARKS

Claims 233-344 are currently pending. Claims 233 and 325 have been amended in this response. No new matter is believed to be added by these amendments. In addition, unless a passage of an amendment is specifically discussed below in connection with one or more cited references, Applicants respectfully submit that the amendments to the claims should be constructed as being submitted merely to clarify the invention rather than as a limitation submitted to overcome a cited reference.

A. Election/Restriction

In response to the Election/Restriction requirement, Applicants elect Claims 233-277 and 325-334, drawn to a system and method for ultrasonic scanning. The remaining claims, Claims 278-324 and 335-344, are canceled without prejudice.

C. Claim Amendments

Applicants would like to thank Examiner Jaworski for his kind consideration and participation in the October 25, 2006 office interview. In accord with the agreement reached in the office interview, Applicants have amended independent Claims 233 and 325 to incorporate the language agreed to in the interview. As amended, Claims 233 and 235 read as follows:

> 233. A scanhead for use with an ultrasound imaging system, comprising:
>
> a transducer assembly comprising a single element ultrasonic transducer that is configured to generate ultrasound at a frequency of at least 20 megahertz (20MHz), to transmit at least a portion of the generated ultrasound into a subject and to receive ultrasound energy from the subject;
>
> an elongate member having a proximal end, wherein the elongate member is configured to pivot about a pivot axis spaced from the proximal end, and wherein the transducer assembly is non-rotatably coupled to the proximal end of the elongate member;
>
> a means for oscillating the transducer along a reciprocating convex arcuate path at a frequency of at least 7.5 Hz, wherein a portion of the means for oscillating is fixed

relative to the elongate member and moves along a reciprocating arcuate route remote from the reciprocating arcuate path of the transducer such that movement of the portion of the means for oscillating causes a complementary and opposite movement of the transducer, and wherein the reciprocating arcuate path of the transducer is co-planer to the reciprocating arcuate route of the portion of the means for oscillating; and

a means for sensing the spatial position of a proximal end of the portion of the means for oscillating along the reciprocating actuate route to determine the position of he transducer along its arcuate path.

335. (currently amended) A method for producing an ultrasound image, comprising:

a) providing a scanhead, comprising:

i) a transducer assembly comprising a single element ultrasonic transducer;

ii) an elongate member having a proximal end, wherein the elongate member is configured to pivot about a pivot axis spaced from the proximal end, and wherein the transducer assembly is non-rotatably coupled to the proximal end of the elongate member;

iii) a means for oscillating the transducer along a reciprocating convex arcuate path, wherein a portion of the means for oscillating is fixed relative to the elongate member and moves along a reciprocating arcuate route remote from the reciprocating arcuate path of the transducer such that movement of the portion of the means for oscillating causes a complementary and opposite movement of the transducer, and wherein the reciprocating arcuate path of the transducer is co-planer to the reciprocating arcuate route of the portion of the means for oscillating; and

iv) a means for sensing the spatial position of a proximal end of the portion of the means for oscillating along the reciprocating actuate route to determine the position of he transducer along its arcuate path.

b) generating ultrasound at a frequency of at least about 20 megahertz (20MHz) using the transducer;

c) transmitting at least a portion of the generated ultrasound into a subject from a location external to the subject;

d) receiving ultrasound energy from the subject;

e) oscillating the transducer along the reciprocating arcuate path at a frequency of at least 7.5 Hz during the generation, transmission and receipt of the ultrasound; and

f) processing the received ultrasound to provide an image having a frame rate of at least 15 frames per second (fps).

Independent Claims 233 and 325, as presently presented, should be in condition for allowance. Therefore, Applicants respectively request allowance of all the outstanding claims. The Examiner is invited and encouraged to contact directly the undersigned if such contact may enhance the efficient prosecution of this application to issue.

A Two-Month Extension of Time fee is enclosed for a small-entity. No additional fees are believed to be due; however, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 14-0629.

Respectfully submitted,

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